



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality

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M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION AT LAKE CHARLES PLANT TO BE EXPANDED

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announced today the initiation of a major project at CONDEA Vista to improve remediation of groundwater contamination at the company's Lake Charles chemical complex.

According to Dale Givens, Secretary of the LDEQ, CONDEA Vista, in response to an effort involving the LDEQ, with the participation of the EPA, will be enhancing its groundwater remediation program with the addition of new vertical and horizontal recovery wells.

"The purpose of the wells is to contain migration of ethylene dichloride (EDC) through use of horizontal groundwater recovery wells and to capture areas of higher concentration contamination with vertical recovery wells," said Givens.

"Lake Charles' CONDEA Vista's expanded plans to contain the horizontal movement of the contamination and protect the drinking water supply is encouraging," added Gregg Cooke, EPA Regional Administrator. "And, their willingness to use horizontal recovery wells to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of containing the movement of EDC-contaminated groundwater at the facility should achieve this goal," said Cooke."

CONDEA Vista is installing the upgraded recovery system in accordance with an Order issued by the LDEQ. Both the LDEQ and EPA have provided an oversight role throughout the process, and will continue to do so in the future.

Today, at CONDEA Vista, there are a total of 93 wells monitoring the location of the groundwater plume and an additional 17 wells operate to remove the contamination. Thus far, more than 275 million pounds of contaminated groundwater have been removed at a cost of \$1.5 million (since 1997).

CONDEA Vista's plans to enhance its remediation program include adding at least two vertical and up to five horizontal recovery wells at a cost of \$3.2 million. In addition, CONDEA Vista will continue to conduct subsurface investigations, as well as begin monitoring for natural attenuation. The latter study will investigate the rates as which the contaminants are naturally biodegrading and incorporate those findings into the remedial action program.

"It's been a long process, but we believe important progress is being made," noted Givens. "This problem and others like it resulted from industry practices in existence 20 to 30 years ago. Today's regulations are designed to prevent this type of contamination from occurring and programs such as this are working to help restore the quality of the environment," concluded Givens.

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